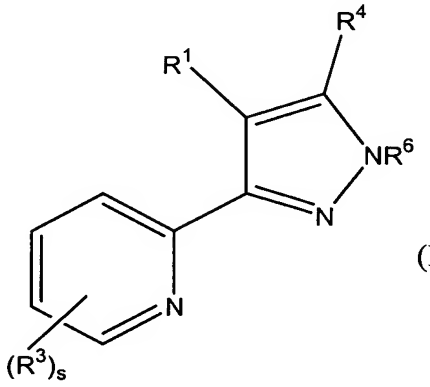
Amendments to the Claims

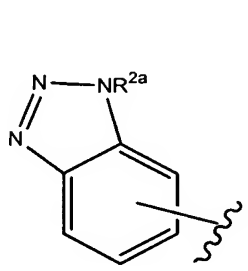
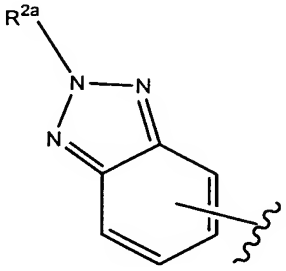
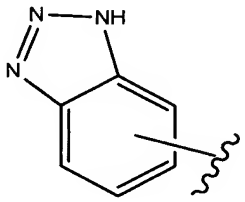
1. (CANCELED)

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A compound of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~prodrug~~ tautomer or hydrate ~~or solvate~~ thereof, wherein R^1 is


,

, or

;

wherein R^{2a} is independently selected from the group consisting of: $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$aryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylaryl, amino, carbonyl, carboxyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$acid, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ester, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, nitro, halo, hydroxyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ester, and where $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, $(C_5\text{-}C_{10})$aryl, amino, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$acid, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$ester, and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy of R^{2a} is optionally substituted by at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl, perhalo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, phenyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl, formyl, NC-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-,phenyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-O-(C=O)-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, O_2N-, amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino, $((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{alkyl})_2$-amino, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-,

phenyl-(C=O)-[((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-, H$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, ((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-, ((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-[(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-N]-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-NH-, (phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-[((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-, (phenyl-)$_2$N-(C=O)-[((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-O-(C=O)-[((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-O-(C=O)-[(alkyl)-N]-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-SO$_2$NH-, phenyl-SO$_2$NH-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-SO$_2$-, phenyl-SO$_2$-, hydroxy, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, perhalo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, phenoxy, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)ester-(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, H$_2$N-(C=O)-O-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, ((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-HN-(C=O)-O-, and (phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-O-;

each R^3 is independently selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_2$-C$_6$)alkenyl, (C$_2$-C$_6$)alkynyl, perhalo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, phenyl, ~~(C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic~~, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, perhalo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, phenoxy, ~~(C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl-O-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic-O-~~, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl-O-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-S-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-SO$_2$-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-NH-SO$_2$-, O$_2$N-, NC-, amino, Ph(CH$_2$)$_{1-6}$HN-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl HN-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylamino, [(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-SO$_2$-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoO$_2$S-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-[(((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-[((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, ~~(C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic-(C=O)-~~, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H$_2$N(C=O)-, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, [(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl]$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, ~~(C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C$_5$-C$_{10}$)heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-~~, (C$_3$-C$_{10}$)cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl-(C=O)-O-;

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, ~~heteroaryl, heterocyclic~~, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^3 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkoxy, halo(C$_1$-C$_6$)alkyl, halo, H$_2$N-, Ph(CH$_2$)$_{1-6}$HN-, and (C$_1$-C$_6$)alkylHN-;

s is an integer from one to five;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, halo, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, phenyl, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic~~, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, phenoxy, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-~~, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-SO_2-, O_2N-, NC-, amino, $Ph(CH_2)_{1-6}NH$-, alkylNH-, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, [(C_1-C_6)alkyl]$_2$-amino, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-NH-, amino(C=O)-, aminoSO_2-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-~~, cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-~~, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)- and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-,

where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, ~~heteroaryl, heterocyclic~~, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, and amino of R^4 is optionally substituted by at least one substituent independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo, H_2N-, $Ph(CH_2)_{1-6}$-NH-, and (C_1-C_6)alkylNH-; and

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, phenyl, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic~~, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(SO_2)-, phenyl-(SO_2)-, H_2N-(SO_2)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(SO_2)-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$N-(SO_2)-, phenyl-NH-(SO_2)-, (phenyl)$_2$N-(SO_2)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-~~, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-~~(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-(C=O)-, H_2N-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-~~, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, ((C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-, (phenyl)$_2$N-(C=O)-, phenyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-~~, and (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-[((C_1-C_6)alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-; where alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, ~~heteroaryl, heterocyclic~~, cycloalkyl, alkoxy, phenoxy, amino of R^6 is

optionally substituted with at least one moiety independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl, phenyl, benzyl, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl~~, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2-, formyl, NC-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-, (C_3C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-, phenyl-(C=O)-, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-~~, HO-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-O-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-(C=O)-, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-(C=O)-~~, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-NH-(C=O)-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-NH-(C=O)-, phenyl-NH-(C=O)-, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-NH-(C=O)-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-NH-(C=O)-~~, $((C_1-C_6)alkyl)_2$-N-(C=O)-, phenyl-[$((C_1-C_6)$alkyl)-N]-(C=O)-, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perhalo(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-O-, phenoxy, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-O-~~, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-O-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-O-, phenyl-(C=O)-O-, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-O-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-O-~~, O_2N-, amino, (C_1-C_6)alkylamino, $((C_1-C_6)alkyl)_2$-amino, formamidyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-NH-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C=O)-NH-, phenyl-(C=O)-NH-, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-(C=O)-NH-, (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C=O)-NH-~~, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-(C=O)-[$((C_1-C_6)$alkyl)-N]-, phenyl-(C=O)-[(C_1-C_6)alkyl-N]-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-SO_2NH-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-SO_2NH-, phenyl-SO_2NH-, ~~(C_5-C_{10})heterocyclic-SO_2NH- and (C_5-C_{10})heteroaryl-SO_2NH-~~; wherein the phenyl ~~or heteroaryl~~ moiety of a R^6 substituent is optionally further substituted with at least one radical independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, perfluoro(C_1-C_6)alkyl and perfluoro(C_1-C_6)alkoxy.~~, with the proviso that R^1 contains at least one heteroatom.~~

3. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

4. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

5. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

6. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

7. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

8. (PREVIOUSLY CANCELED)

9. (CANCELED)

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CANCELED)

12. (CANCELED)

13. (CANCELED)

14. (CANCELED)

15. (CANCELED)

16. (NEW) A compound selected from the group consisting of 1-Methyl-6-[3-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole, 1-Methyl-6-[1-methyl-3-(6-methyl-pryridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole and 2-Methyl-5-[3-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (NEW) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound chosen from the group consisting of 1-Methyl-6-[3-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole, 1-Methyl-6-[1-methyl-3-(6-methyl-pryridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-1H-benzotriazole and 2-Methyl-5-[3-(6-methyl-pyridin-2-yl)-1H-pyrazol-4-yl]-2H-benzotriazole; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.